

MD-055
Baltimore City

From 1910 until 1979, waste frit was dumped in an on-site ravine.

In 1977, SCM Corporation, owner of the property at that time, applied for a DHS permit.

In 1979, a cleanup order was issued requiring the removal of waste piles; the extension of storm drains through the landfill area; a cap and vegetative cover over the filled area; and the submission analyses for all outfalls regulated under the NPDES permit.

In 1980, Pemco temporarily became a RCRA generator, transporter and treatment facility for hazardous wastes.

In 1999, MDE completed a Site Survey that recommended further investigation due to insufficient data concerning contaminated groundwater emanating from the landfilled area.

In April 2000, MDE conducted an SI. The SI report is being drafted and will undergo a toxicological review.

PEMCO CORPORATION
Baltimore, Maryland

Site Location

The 19.97-acre Pemco Corporation property is located at 5601 Eastern Avenue in Baltimore City, Maryland. The site is situated on the south side of Eastern Avenue, across from the Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital. Bonsal Street bounds the site to the east, Umbra Street bounds the site to the west and I-95 bounds the site to the south.

The company's buildings occupy the eastern portion of the property and paved parking areas occupy the northern portion. The area of concern is an approximate 4-acre former ravine with a small, unnamed southwest flowing stream located in the western and southwestern area of the property. Waste frit, which contains heavy metals, was dumped into the ravine from 1910 until 1979. In 1980, the former landfill area was capped and revegetated, and a concrete storm sewer was extended to eliminate contact between the landfill toe and the small stream. The property is fenced and access may only be obtained through a security gate off of Eastern Avenue. There has been little change to the site since 1980.

Site History

The site has been used to manufacture glass and porcelain since 1910. Until 1979, waste porcelain and glass, known as "frit," was disposed of in the ravine adjacent to the manufacturing facility. An area of approximately 4 acres was filled to a depth of 40 feet. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Hazardous Waste Enforcement Division files indicate that the fill consists of glass, brick, concrete, nails and metal fragments.

The facility was originally owned and operated by Pemco Corporation. The Pemco name has been retained throughout facility's operation. In 1955, the Pemco plant was sold to Glidden-Durkee Corporation, which became a division of the SCM Corporation in 1967.

In October 1977, the Pemco facility submitted a Designated Hazardous Substance (DHS) permit application to the State for storage and disposal for state regulated wastes.

In April 1979, the Department of Natural Resources, Water Resources Administration (WRA) issued a cleanup order requiring the Pemco facility to stop the on-site disposal of waste; the removal of all piles of waste frit; the extension of storm drains through the landfilled area; a cap and vegetative cover over the fill area; and submission analyses for all outfalls regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

In 1980, the Pemco facility was sold to Mobay Chemical Corporation and received facility number MD0003093499 as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) generator, transporter, and treatment facility for hazardous waste. Pemco later withdrew their hazardous waste facility permit and is now regulated as a Controlled Substance generator. The facility also discharges treated waste water which is regulated under NPDES permit number 79-DP-0317.

In 1992, Mobay Chemical Corporation sold the facility to Miles Inc. In 1995, Miles Inc. sold the facility to Bayer Corporation and in October 1997, the facility was transferred to the Pemco Holding Corporation, the current owner of the site.

Environmental Investigations

In March 1979, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Science and Education Administration conducted soil analyses on gardens and related soils on Umbra Street at the request of the Southeast Community

Organization. The soil samples were collected from both banks of the unnamed stream on the Pemco property. Results of the analysis revealed elevated levels of lead (up to 638,000 parts per million [ppm]) in the eastern bank sample located nearest the landfill.

In May 1979, the WRA collected soil, surface water and groundwater samples in response to the Pemco DHS permit application. Elevated levels of arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium and lead were detected in the soil, surface water and groundwater samples.

In February 1982, JRB Associates completed a *Hazardous Waste Site Assessment Report*. The report included a review of the historical data and indicated the potential for off-site migration of heavy metals and possibly caustics and solvents.

In 1982, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene performed a *Preliminary Assessment* that addressed concerns related to the waste dumped into the ravine.

In 1984, NUS Corporation completed a *Site Inspection (SI)*. Samples from a shallow monitoring well revealed elevated levels of arsenic (62 parts per billion [ppb]), cadmium (9.3 ppb), and lead (250 ppb). Samples collected from two seeps on the western and southern slopes of the landfill revealed lead (150 ppm) and cadmium (1.6 ppm). Since there were no apparent pathways for migration of these contaminants, the toxicological evaluation concluded that there was no threat to either human health or the environment.

In 1999, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a *Site Survey* that recommended future investigation due to insufficient data concerning the discharge of contaminated groundwater from the landfilled area. Monitoring wells that were installed in 1979 have since been destroyed.

Current Status

In April 2000, MDE personnel conducted an *SI* in response to the 1999 *Site Survey*. The *SI* report is being drafted and will undergo a toxicological review.

Contact

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